Validation Requirements for TRADOC Courses and Courseware

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Definition

Validation is simply quality control of the design and development process

Types of Validation

- Test Validation ---

  - Distinguishes between performers and non-performers
  - Must be completed prior to course/courseware validation

- Course/Courseware validation includes ---
  - Content Validation
  - Individual Trials
  - Group Trials
  - Operational Tryout

Content Validation

- Is Part of development process

- Determines if the materials ---
  - Are doctrinally/technically correct
  - Include sufficient detail
  - Are written in the Army Writing Style
  - Use language the target audience will understand
  - Performed by SME during reviews/IPRs
  - Focuses SME on the critical characteristics (via job aids, TR 350-70)
  - Eliminates problems early

Individual Trials

- QCs the methods of instruction
- Ensures the learning activities work
- Uses a volunteer (one person) that has the basic characteristics of a student (school/contractor can use in-house personnel)
- QCs a small portion of lesson at a time

Group Trials

- Are intrinsically part of development process
- Are critical to creation of effective training
- Ensure that lessons are statistically valid
- Determine time requirements for lessons
- Add little extra time to the process (if lessons are valid) – Note: Validation of each and every <u>objective</u> is a contract requirement

Operational Tryout

- Is intrinsically part of the process
- Can be conducted during first class (pilot)
- Will probably incur additional costs if it is the only validation activity conducted (waiting to the end of the project to identify and fix problems is **not** cost effective)

Operational Tryout

During operational tryouts, the team will determine whether or not –

- All the lessons (TLOs) work together to provide
sequential and progressive training within the course

- All course resource requirements are identified

- Course materials provide contradictory information/ training

- All problems/inaccuracies are eliminated

Operational Tryout

Operational tryout is a final validation activity that --

- Exposes class (target audience) to entire course/ phase/module/lesson (whichever is the largest instructional unit being developed)
- Trains course under actual training conditions
- Provides statistical validation data

Summary

- Test validation
- Content validation
- Individual trials
- Group trials
- Operational Tryout

Questions

Back Up slides

Group Trials

- Fixed sample method –
  - Requires a minimum of 30 volunteers
  - Volunteers must possess critical characteristics of target audience
  - More statistically reliable

- Sequential validation method -

  Preferred

  - Can involve as few as 4 students or as many as 30
  - A minimum of 10 students is recommended for time calculations
  - Volunteers must possess critical characteristics of target audience
  - Less statistically valid